The Government is fully committed to preserving and further strengthening the secular ethos of our country.

Proposal to form UT comprising Tirap and Changlang

644. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to form Union Territory comprising of Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the Union territory will be formed;

(d) whether Government have any other proposals for the formation of Union Territory in any other part of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Freedom of Expression

†645. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that freedom of expression is enshrined in the Constitution as a fundamental right;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some people come forward to obstruct such freedom whether it be in book/film/play form; and

(c) what is being done by Government to keep the country out of the clutches of such fascist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Under Article 19 of the Constitution of India, freedom of expression has been recognized as a Fundamental Right. However, under the same Article, the State is empowered to impose reasonable restrictions on the operation of the Right in the interest of sovereignty and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.